

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 OIC-02 /087 R

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APPROVED BY HA/ORM:JLCARLIN
IO/UNP:PSBRIDGES

-----079567 182205Z /75

P 182031Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: ENLARGEMENT OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA 10996

1. THE DEPARTMENT SHARES THE CONCERN OF U.S. MISSION,
GENEVA OVER THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERS THE ADDITION OF NINE MORE GOVERN-
MENTS AN UNWISE MOVE. THE USG HAS A LARGE STAKE IN THE
WORK OF THE UNHCR ESPECIALLY NOW WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS
GROWING IN SIZE AND COMPLEXITY IN EAST ASIA AND IN AFRICA.
WE NOTE THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO CY-1977 PROGRAMS EXCEEDED
FIFTY PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET WHICH IS A PRACTICAL MEASURE
OF OUR SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE. IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE
FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE FALL SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MORE AND MORE POLITICAL AND LESS CONCERNED WITH
THE SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
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DELEGATIONS TO THESE MEETINGS REPRESENTING GOVERNMENTS
GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS HAVE FOUND IT
INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO PROCEED WITH THE ANNUAL TASK OF
REVIEWING PROGRAMS AND THE OFFICE'S PROTECTION FUNCTION.

2. HARTLING HAS YET TO PARTICIPATE IN A FULL-BLOWN

EXECCOMM SESSION AND HE MIGHT ALTER HIS VIEWS AFTER HE HAS HAD THIS EXPERIENCE. WE RECALL THAT HIS PREDECESSOR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN APPEALED TO US AND TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN IN RESISTING AN EXPANSION. HIS VIEWS AT THE TIME COINCIDED WITH THOSE CONCERNS REFLECTED IN REFTEL.

3. IN ANY EVENT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE U.S. MISSION, GENEVA SHOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD THE LINE FOR MINIMUM EXPANSION. MISSION SHOULD URGE LIKE-MINDED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH HARTLING TO POINT OUT PIT FALLS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. IF UK, AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS ARE WILLING TO MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH, U.S. MISSION SHOULD TAKE SIMILAR ACTION. PERHAPS A JOINT APPROACH COULD BE WORKED-OUT. WE WOULD NOT IN FINAL ANALYSIS WISH TO BE LONE VOICE OF DISSENT ON LARGER EXPANSION. HOWEVER, ANY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF ROTATING MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECCOMM SHOULD BE STOUTLY RESISTED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, COMMITTEES, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE181373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ORM;GLWARREN,JR/CV
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780295-0379
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780746/aaaabmya.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d61b5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 10996
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1966586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENLARGEMENT OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TAGS: SREF, US
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d61b5171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014